CALPEEK

CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK

P.O. BOX 1468, BEVERLY HILLS, CA 90213 (213) 659-0205
Dick Rosengarten, Publisher

VOL. XII
No. 44

DEC 3, 1990

AS S.F. MAYOR ART AGNOS GETS READY FOR HIS 1991 REELECTION BID, POLL SHOWS SLIPPAGE..

About a year from now, San Francisco Mayor Art Agnos will either be out of a job or will be getting ready for his second 4-year term as mayor of Calif.'s 4th largest city. But with 11-plus months to go, a recent survey in the S.F. Chronicle shows Agnos' popularity has dropped substantially and only 3 in 10 voters questioned in the poll say they would vote to reelect him if the election were held now. The poll was taken between Oct. 25-27, with a sample size of 600 registered voters...

...But a poll this early is almost meaningless, especially given past S.F. political history. For example, both Joe Alioto and even Dianne Feinstein were in similar situations with 12 months to go before an important reelection bid. About the only thing of substance this poll does is to encourage other potential candidates to give the race some consideration...

...So who else is looking at Mayor Art's job? The most often mentioned challenger is State Sen. Quentin Kopp, the former S.F. County supervisor. Kopp is conservative, colorful and charismatic. In a city where coalition building and alliances are the key to successful elections, Kopp probably would be a strong competitor. Most S.F insiders would love to see an Agnos-Kopp battle for mayor, but it's a little too early to predict whether Kopp will actually run - although he continues to make noises like a mayoral candidate...

...Another person mentioned as a contender is S.F. Sup. Tom Hsieh, the board's only Asian. He has the ability to raise money, but may not be able to forge the necessary alliances to win. S.F. Sup. Bill Maher is a Kopp ally, but suffered a setback when he finished second to Sup. Doris Ward, who now is the Board's chairperson. And then there is retiring S.F.P.D. chief Frank Jordan...

...Of this list, in the poll, 25% were undecided; 31% were for Mayor Agnos; 24% for Kopp; 8% for Jordan; 6% for Maher; and 4% for Hsieh (in rounded off numbers)...

...Bottomline: given the liberal/progressive voting patterns in S.F., and given Art Agnos' own political philosophy, it is hard to see Agnos losing to any of the above rivals. And as Agnos consultant Richard Ross told CALPEEK, "All candidates have warts." As CALPEEK went to press, Agnos and his reelection committee were just getting ready to hold their first formal meeting to map strategy. CALPEEK will update this story from time to time over the next few months. Stay tuned...

HAS THE CHOICE ISSUE GOT WILSON HUNG UP IN A FIGHT BETWEEN GOP HARDLINERS & MODERATES?

As the Jan. 7th inauguration date for Gov.-elect Pete Wilson draws closer, CALPEEK has detected some growing TENSIONS between hardline conservative Republicans who are PRO-LIFE on the abortin question, and Wilson-style Republicans who are PRO-CHOICE. The friction is over whom Wilson will appoint to fill out the remaining 4 years of his term in the U.S. Senate...

...Reliable, hardline conservative sources have told CALPEEK that long before the primary, Wilson promised he would NOT have any LITMUS TESTS when it came to naming a successor to the U.S. Senate. However, this "understanding" flies in the face of what Wilson and some of his key spokespersons have said publicly: that Wilson will name a successor who mirrors his views on a number of issues, including CHOICE, fiscal and foreign policy, and the environment...

{Continued Next Page}

CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK [ISSN 0195-6175] IS AN INDEPENDENT, NONPARTISAN NEWS ANALYSIS BULLETIN OF PUBLIC POLICY PUBLISHING, INC., A CALIFORNIA CORPORATION. TELEPHONE: (213) 659-0205. ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 1468, BEVERLY HILLS, CA 90213. $85.00/YEAR. PUBLISHED WEEKLY, 44 WEEKS PER YEAR. COPYRIGHT BY PUBLIC POLICY PUBLISHING, INC. THIS TRADEMARK REGISTERED WITH THE CALIF. SEC. OF STATE. REPRODUCTION IN WHOLE OR PART REQUIRES EXPRESS PERMISSION. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. 1ST CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT LOS ANGELES.

LICENSED TO UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

...On the other hand, just before the Nov. 6th election, Wilson, while campaigning in Whittier, said there would be no litmus tests. However, he was quickly reminded of his previous statements on CHOICE...

...Wilson, who from time to time has played both sides of an issue, really wants to avoid any damaging battles between the two sides. Whether he'll pull this off remains to be seen. But several CALPEEK sources, even some who are PRO-CHOICE, think from a political point of view, Wilson will be better off if he doesn't apply a litmus test on the CHOICE question. While this will cause some anguish among Wilson's GOP cadre of PRO-CHOICE supporters, in the long run it may help solidify Wilson's GOP base, especially on the RIGHT...

...FYI: Take State Sen. Becky Morgan out of the running. She says she's not interested. Likely choices if Wilson applies a litmus test on choice: State Sen. John Seymour of Anaheim or U.S. Rep. Tom Campbell of Palo Alto. Stay tuned...

MORE SCRUTINY AHEAD FOR POLITICAL SLATES?
Few things are sure bets in this world except death, taxes and the Berman & D'Agostino slate, which shows up just before each election with a regularity that is rivaled only by a person on a high fiber diet. But SLATES and slatemakers could be in for some tough times. CALPEEK sources predict that legislation will be reintroduced in Sacto to tighten up the laws dealing with SLATES. Last year, legislation by Assemblyman Bryon Sher(D-Mt. View) was killed after it hit the floor of the State Assembly. Sher's bill called for more disclosure information to be printed on the slates - and in bigger type face that can be easily read by the voters...

...What happened this year to possibly put Sher's bill back on the legislative burner? The usual stuff - distribution of slates to voters that appeared to be official mailings by either the CRP or CDP, but which in fact were just slates sponsored by differents groups not connected with either party organization. All legal under the current laws. One CALPEEK source who helped kill the Sher legislation says the legitimate slatemakers must now come up with their own reforms. Stay tuned...

5th SENATE DIST. SPECIAL ELECTION JAN. 8.
The day after Pete Wilson becomes Calif.'s new governor, voters in the 5th Senate District go to the polls to select a replacement for former State Sen. John Garamendi (D-Stockton), who was elected Insurance Commissioner this past Nov. 6. The contest pits Assemblyman Patrick Johnston(D-Stockton) against Phil Wallace, who is chairman of the San Joaquin Co. Republican Central Committee. The election is Jan. 8...

...The 5th S.D. takes in 8 Northern Calif. counties, with San Joaquin Co. being the largest in terms of registered voters. The registration leans Democratic, 53.13% to 37.31%, but in a special it's a matter of MONEY and TURNOUT...

...In terms of a favorite, even Republicans admit Johnston, with excellent name I.D. and a solid reputation in the legislature, will be hard to beat. But Johnston does have a weak spot - he's against the DEATH PENALTY. This vulnerable area will be somewhat offset with numerous endorsements from major law enforcement groups...

...As for MONEY, Johnston is pretty much a known quantity and has the ability to raise a good sized warchest. As for Wallace, CALPEEK sources say he is personally wealthy, but it's undetermined at this point whether or not he is willing to either finance his own campaign or perhaps loan his committee the necessary funds. Both campaigns will be run under old Prop. 73 contribution rules...

...As for the holiday season, it's likely to really mess up the direct mail effort of both candidates, but that's a fact of political life at this time of year. Wallace has hired Huckaby-Rodriguez as his campaign team, while Johnston has signed consultant Richard Ross. Stay tuned...

KABC-TV's BREAKSTONE AT W.I.P.A. FINALE.
KABC-TV political reporter Linda Breakstone will be the guest speaker at the final get together of 1990 of Women In Public Affairs (WIPA), 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., Dec. 5, at Lunaria, 10351 Santa Monica Blvd., West L.A. Cost $40. For RSVPs call Linda Braunschweiger at Union Bank (213)236-6717...

LICENSED TO UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

11 NEW FACES IN THE CA LEGISLATURE FOR '91. Who said there isn't much turnover in the State Legislature? There will be 10 new members in the Assembly and one new member in the State Senate. Here are the Assembly members: Andrea Seastrand(R-29th), Barbara Lee(D-13th); Jim Brulte(R-65th), Tom Mays (R-58th), Paula Boland(R-38th), Marguerite Archie-Hudson(D-48th), Xavier Becerra(D-59th), Paul Horcher(R-52nd), Mike Gotch(D-78th) and Didi Alpert(D-75th). The new State senator is Mike Thompson(D-4th)...

DOOLITTLE HASN'T RESIGNED YET, BUT FIELD IS GROWING IN 1st S.D. AS CANDIDATES JOCKEY... In what could turn out to be one of the more exciting special elections in a long time, a potential field of at least 5 solid Republicans and 2 Democrats could be vying for the soon-to-be vacated State Senate job of Congressman-elect John Doolittle, the conservative from Roseville...

...When Doolittle first announced he would run for Norm Shumway's House seat, there were at least 4 elected officials who already had their eyes on the 1st district: Siskiyou Co. Sup. Patti Jackson, a Demo from Yreka; Placer Co. Sup. Mike Fluty, a Republican from Tahoe; and two Assemblymen, Tim Leslie(R-Sacramento) and Chris Chandler (R-Yuba City). There have been reports that Chandler is having second thoughts, and as CALPEEK went to press, Leslie had NOT made any announcements. But Fluty and Jackson are supposedly IN...

...But there's more. Add 3 more GOPers to the list of potential candidates in the 1st district: El Dorado Co. Sup. Bob Dorr, Sacramento Co. Sup. Sandra Smoley and perhaps Jim Nielsen, the State senator who was just defeated for reelection in his own 4th S.D. Nielsen used to live in Woodland, and sources say he has re-registered there and that's within the 1st S.D. On the Demo side, add at least one more to the list: John Gaither, the Lassen Co. supervisor who was defeated for reelection in November. He is a conservative Demo from Janesville...

...If Nielsen runs, this could throw the pre-election odds for a loop. Will a Nielsen candidacy force Leslie to back off? And if Leslie is out, where will the conservatives line up? Nielsen is a conservative, but he's damaged goods and there is mixed opinion as to how he would do in another race. The candidates to watch, according to CALPEEK sources, are the various county supervisors, especially Fluty and Dorr. As for Smoley, if she were to run, she'd have to move to her second home in the Lake Tahoe area. And a Smoley candidacy wouldn't sit well with conservatives. Stay tuned...

FIELD ALMOST SET FOR L.A. SUPERVISOR RACE. The deadline for filing to run in the new 1st Supervisorial District of L.A. County closed Friday (11/30) after this edition of CALPEEK went to press. As deadline approached, there were FOUR major contenders in the race: State Senators Art Torres and Charles Calderon, both rival Demos from Eastern L.A. County; L.A. Councilwoman Gloria Molina, another Demo from East L.A.; and Sarah Flores, former aide to L.A. Co. Sup. Pete Schabarum. Out of the running is U.S. Rep. Marty Martinez(D-Monterey Park). He's thrown his support to Calderon...

...And speaking of Calderon, he has hired Sacto political consultant Richard Ross to manage his campaign. The addition of Ross brings to four the number of top campaign consultants involved. David Townsend is handling Torres, Ron Smith has Flores and Pat Bond is running Molina's effort...

...To repeat again, the special election is set for Jan. 22nd, meaning that Prop. 73 limits of $1,000 per person apply. The FPPC sent out a letter to the candidates reaffirming this fact...

...Assuming no other heavyweights enter the contest, the numbers from this new district might tend to support FLORES. But it's all a matter of turnout, money and AV ballots. But if you are a numbers cruncher, think about this: there are a total of 360,000 registered voters in the new 1st; of this total, 100,000 are considered high propensity voters; of that number 51,000 are registered as REPUBLICANS. Stay tuned...

TO CALPEEK SUBSCRIBERS: CHANGE OF ADDRESS. Are you planning to move anytime in the near future? If so, please send CALPEEK a change of address card, WITH your current CALPEEK mailing label. The label contains a code which enables CALPEEK to quickly process your change of address. If you have any questions, call (213)659-0205...

LICENSED TO UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

SAN DIEGO COUNCILWOMAN FACES ANGRY RECALL. Recall advocates of first term San Diego Councilwoman Linda Bernhardt evidently have turned in sufficient signatures to force a recall - probably in March, assuming that legal challenges don't force a longer postponement. The recall is an outgrowth of a noisy and sometimes bitter city reapportionment plan that was recently approved by the council on a 5-4 vote and affirmed by a federal judge who was overseeing the case. The LEGAL brouhaha directly involves reapportionment and the key questions are: did recall proponents collect the signatures in the correct areas?; and who votes in the recall? While some say this recall is over Bernhardt's performance in office, other CALPEEK sources say this is just another bitter fight between PRO-GROWTH and anti-development forces in San Diego's 5th council district...

A CALPEEK REPORT: POLITICS - TEXAS STYLE. Editor's note: Here's a quick report from the Lone Star State. You'd be surprised how much Texas and Calif. have in common...

...It will be interesting to compare notes 12 months from now on how governors-elect Pete Wilson(R) of Calif. and Ann Richards (D) of Texas handle the tough job of dealing with some very serious BUDGETARY problems facing their respective States. Signs of the deep recession which hit Texas in the mid-1980s are still visible...

...Another common problem is INSURANCE. Texans have just seen a 20% hike in homeowners' insurance. As an editorial in the Dallas Morning News pointed out, "If the Texas insurance industry thinks it is in for some rough financial times, wait until it hits the political shoals in the next legislative session." Sound familiar???

...In terms of how Texas voters feel about their new governor-elect, it's a wait and see period for Richards. It wasn't so much voters backing her as it was a complete rejection of Republican Clayton Williams and his Cowboy Capitalism. As one Texan told CALPEEK over the Thanksgiving holiday, "The only thing bigger than than Clayton's campaign warchest was his mouth."...

...And while the Republicans may have lost the governor's race, there are some bright rising political stars in the GOP stable, including Treasurer-elect Kay Bailey Hutchison. She could be to Texas what Kathleen Brown is to Calif...

...On the OUTS is Texas ag commissioner Jim Hightower, a Demo lib populist who was hated by the Texas Farm Bureau. He was defeated by Rick Perry(R). Hightower is very much like Assemblyman Tom Hayden of Santa Monica --- the Demo that Republicans love to hate...

...And yes, CALPEEK readers, Texas did beat Baylor 23-13 to win the Southwest Conference title and bragging rights in Waco, TX, for the next year. Stay tuned...

****

Next week will be CALPEEK's final edition for 1990. We'll probably have some fun with this issue (X-Mas Card Greetings or Gifts, Predictions or Year-In-Review)....

****

MARKETPLACE NETWORK

- SO. CALIF. DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS position available with rapidly expanding product distributor. Political/campaign/community relations experience necessary. Position includes community liaison, local legislative analysis and community outreach. Assist company President and outside public affairs/public relations agency with company's grass roots political action and political education, plus monitor and supervise the activities of the company's So. Calif. sales force and be responsible for establishing a permanent line of communication with 2300 organizations throughout Calif. Send resume, salary history, writing samples and recommendations to 1121 "L" Street, Suite 806, Sacramento, CA 95814. (Position is based in Orange County)...

CALPEEK's Marketplace Network is a listing of employer/employee availabilities for those engaged in campaign consulting/PA/PR/govt. relations/lobbying. The cost for each listing is $25 for up to 40 words. Add $5 for each additional 10 words. Send ad copy with advanced payment to CALPEEK's Marketplace, P.O. Box 1468, Beverly Hills, CA 90213. For info (213)659-0205...

LICENSED TO UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED